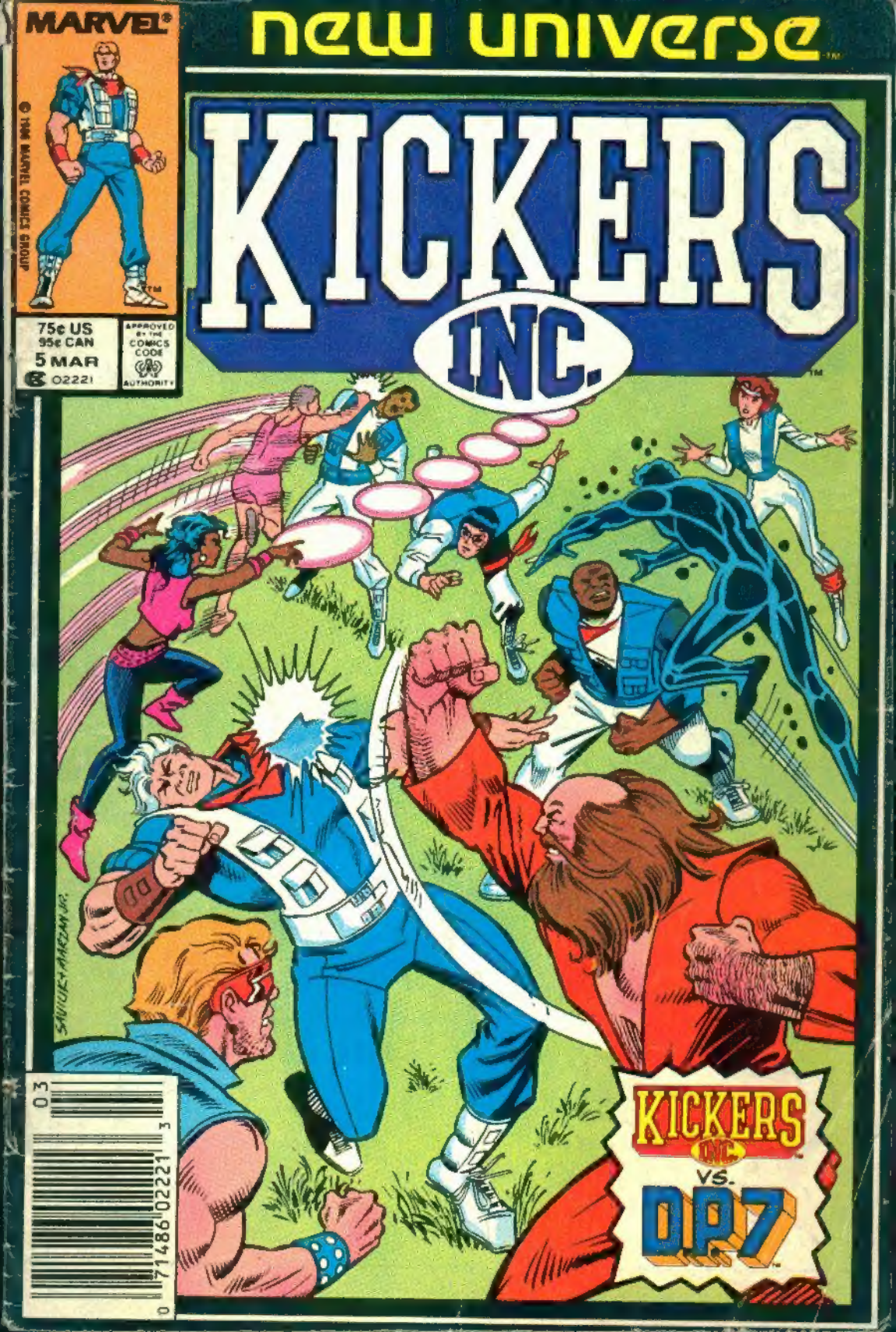
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KICKERS INC. FREAKS ARE FOR FIGHTING!

GUEST-STARRING... D.P.7

YOU BETRAYED US, MAGNICONTE-- NOW YOU'RE GONNA PAY FOR IT!

HEY!

GO TO IT, MASTODON!

UNNHHH!

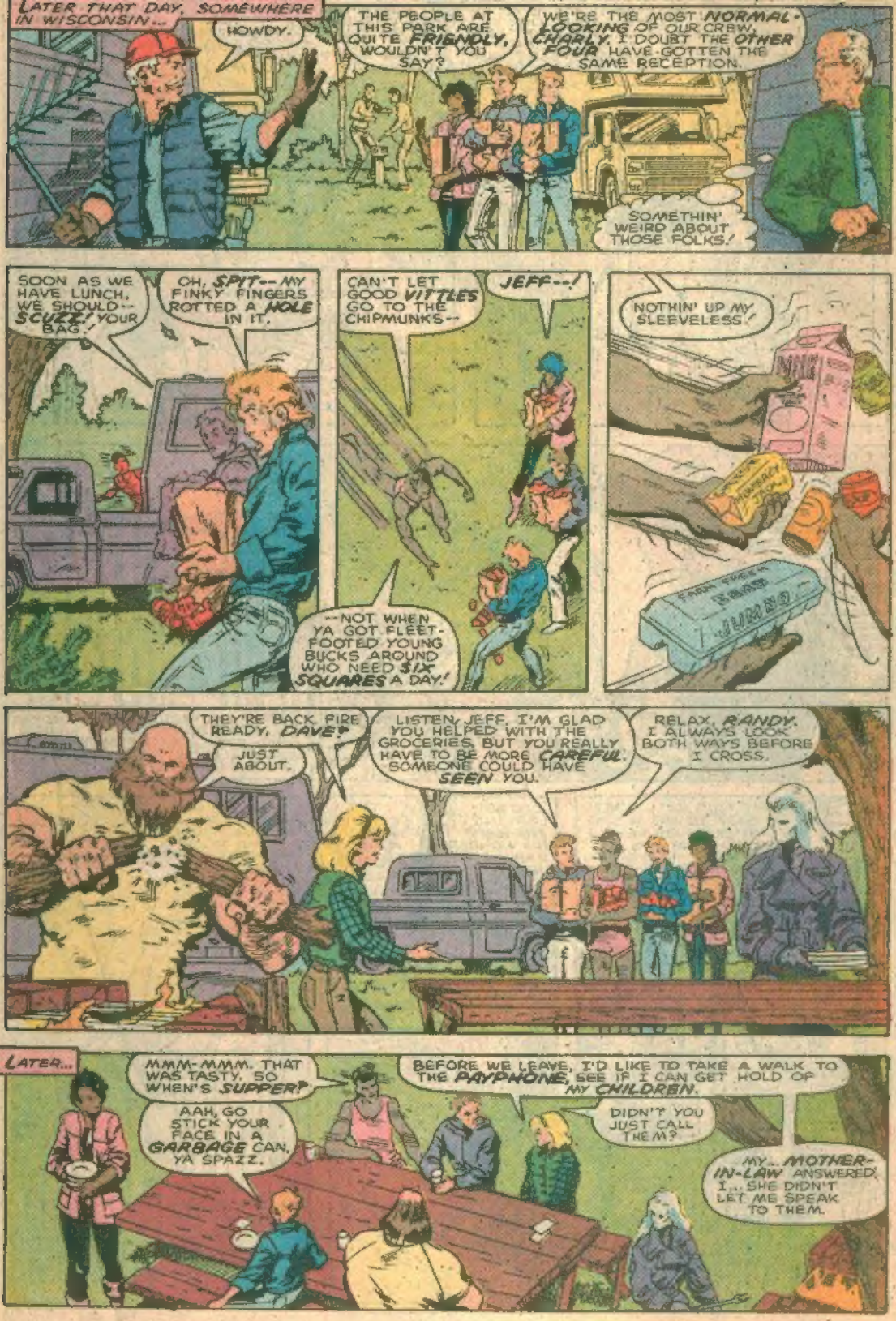
WHEN JACK MAGNICONTE, HIS WIFE AND THREE BEST BUDDIES POUNDED KICKERS, INC. THEY HOPED TO HELP PEOPLE WITH OFFBEAT PROBLEMS AND HAVE A GOOD TIME DOING IT.

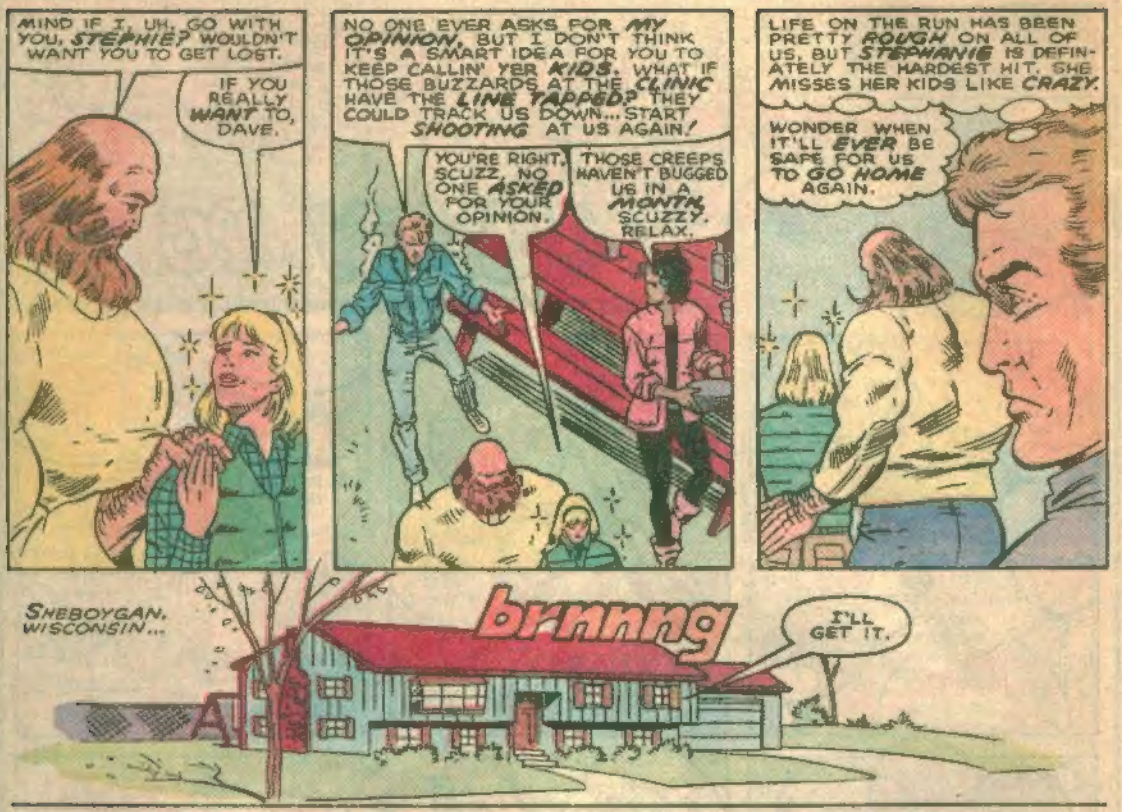
WELL, PROBLEMS DON'T COME ANY MORE OFFBEAT THAN THOSE OF THE SEVEN DIS-PLACED PARANORMALS, SO HOW COME JACK ISN'T HAVING A GOOD TIME? READ ON...

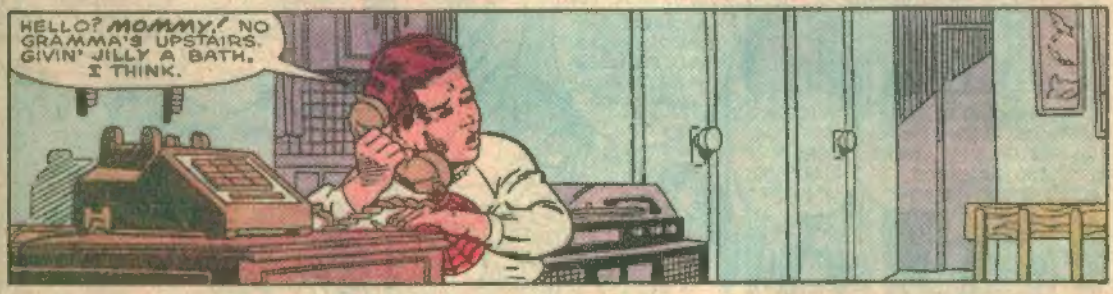
TOM DeFALCO / PLOT | MARK GRUENWALD / SCRIPT | PAUL RYAN / PENCILS | DeLAROSA & FRIENDS / INKS | DIANA ALBERS / LETTERS | WELLINGTON & JACKSON / COLORS | MICHAEL HIGGINS / EDITOR | JIM SHOOTER / EDITOR IN CHIEF

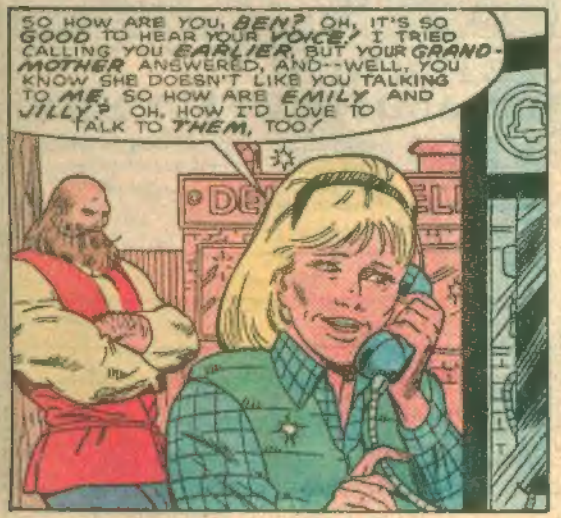
IT ALL BEGINS HERE, ON A BLUSTERY MORNING IN EARLY NOVEMBER, AT KICKERS, INC.'s HEADQUARTERS COMPLEX IN FLUSHING, QUEENS...
...TWO QUERIES FROM WIDOWS ABOUT THEIR HUSBANDS' PENSIONS AND BENEFITS, ONE FROM A MAN WHO WANTS TO BORROW MONEY FROM US TO REPAY SOME LOAN SHARKS, THREE UFO SIGHTINGS AROUND PITTSBURGH--
--AND THREE OBSCENE PHONECALLS FROM GREEN BAY CHIEFTAINS FANS.'
ANY FURTHER CALLS FROM THAT YOUNG BOY IN WISCONSIN WHOSE MOTHER IS MISSING?
UM, YES, CATHY SPOKE WITH HIM, MRS. MAGNICONTE. SHE GAVE HIM THE MESSAGE YOU TOLD US TO.
THAT'S GREAT, MISS WIGGINS, NOW WE CAN ONLY HOPE THAT-- WHA--?
OOOH.'
'MORNING, GORGEOUS.
WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING?!?
YOU LOOKED LIKE YOU NEEDED A QUICK PICK-ME-UP.'
PUT ME DOWN THIS INSTANT, YOU BIG GALOOMPH, OR I WON'T LET YOU HAVE ANYTHING SWEET FOR A MONTH.'
YES, MA'AM!
BOY, YOU'D THINK THE MEESE COMMISSION OUTLAWED HUSBANDLY HUGS.
THIS IS OUR PLACE OF WORK, JACK. HOW AM I SUPPOSED TO COMMAND THE RESPECT OF THE TROOPS IF YOU MAN-HANDLE MY MERCHANDISE IN FRONT OF THEM?
YOU'RE RIGHT. SORRY, DARLENE-DARLING.

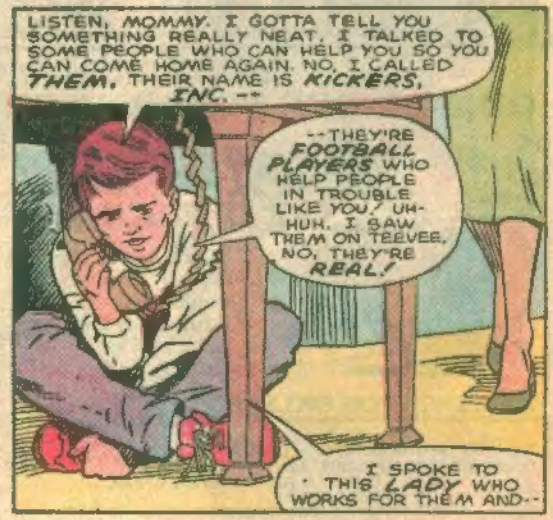
AND ANOTHER THING, YOU OUGHT TO BE A LOT MORE CAREFUL SHOWING OFF YOUR ENHANCED STRENGTH IN PUBLIC. YOU DON'T WANT IT TO GET OUT THAT YOU ARE TO YOUR ORDINARY WHEATIES-EATING PRO-FOOTBALLER WHAT THEY ARE TO A HIGH SCHOOL DEBATE TEAM!
LOOK, DARL-- I DIDN'T DO ANYTHING THAT EXTRAORDINARY. BESIDES, IT WOULD NEVER OCCUR TO ANYONE TO SUSPECT SUPERHUMAN STRENGTH!
FURTHERMORE, IF THE QUARTERBACK OF THE NEW YORK SMASHERS DIDN'T ACT LIKE A MACHO GOON NOW AND THEN, IT WOULD BE BAD FOR MY IMAGE!
SAY, THERE ISN'T ANYTHING ELSE YOU'RE UPSET ABOUT, IS THERE?
I DON'T KNOW. I GUESS THERE IS.
WANT TO TALK ABOUT IT?
ALL RIGHT, UM, I KNOW WE'RE SUPPOSED TO HAVE A PROFESSIONAL DETACHMENT ABOUT ALL THE PROBLEMS THAT ARE REFERRED TO US, BUT...
THIS ONE CALL KIND OF GOT TO ME. A SIX-YEAR OLD BOY REPORTED THAT HIS MOTHER HAD LEFT HOME BECAUSE OF SOME SORT OF MEDICAL PROBLEM--
MOTHER LEAVING HOME? NO WONDER DARL'S UPSET...
THE WOMAN CALLS HER SON WHENEVER SHE CAN, BUT ACCORDING TO HIM, SHE'S AFRAID TO COME HOME BECAUSE OF SOME "BAD MEN" THAT ARE CHASING HER.
HMM, WONDER IF THERE'S ANYTHING KICKERS MIGHT DO TO HELP?
I WISH THERE WERE BUT UNLESS THE BOY CONVINCES HIS MOM TO CALL US, THERE'S NOTHING WE CAN DO!

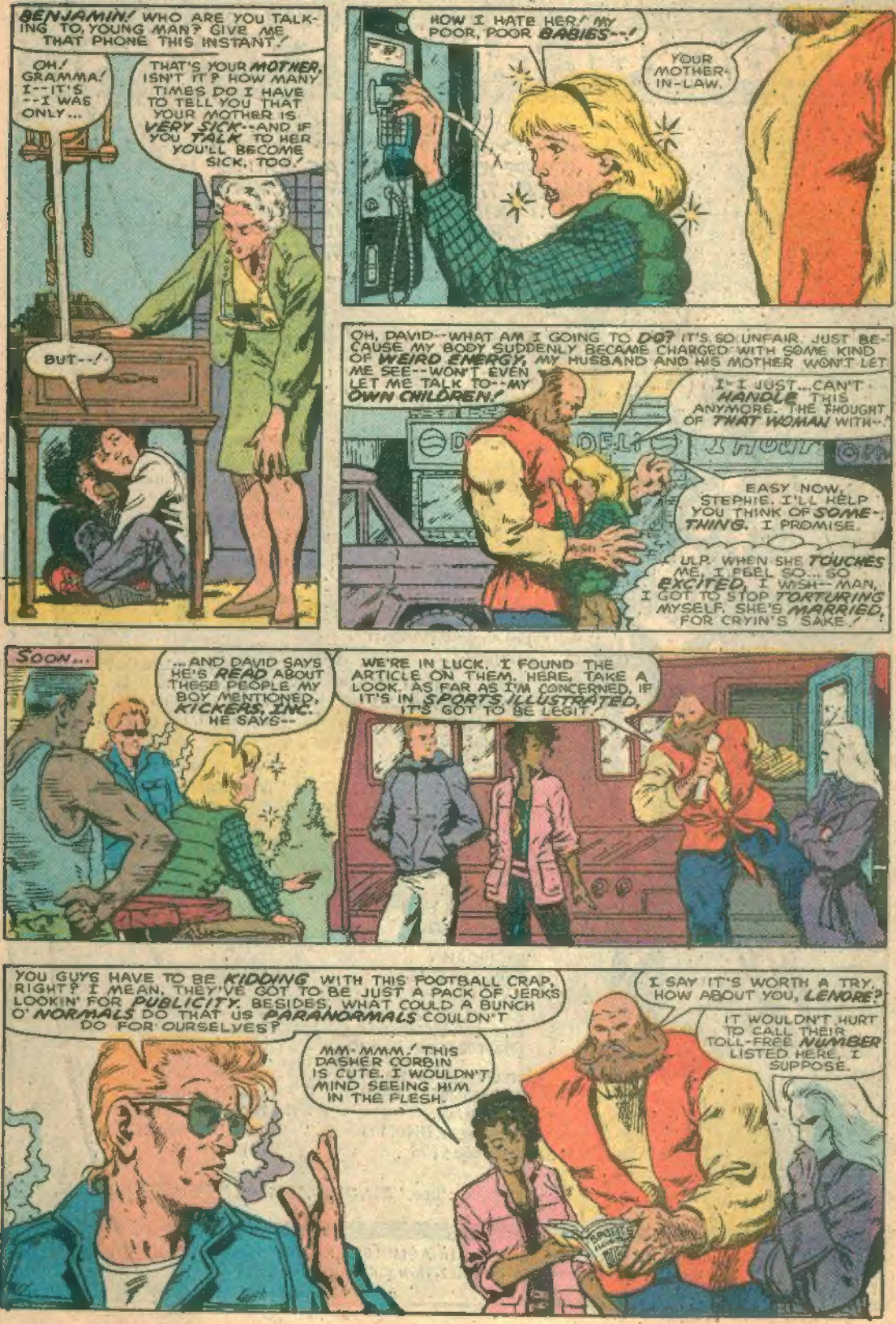

LATER THAT DAY, SOMEWHERE IN WISCONSIN...
HOWDY.
THE PEOPLE AT THIS PARK ARE QUITE FRIENDLY, WOULDN'T YOU SAY?
WE'RE THE MOST NORMAL-LOOKING OF OUR CREW, CHARLY. I DOUBT THE OTHER FOUR HAVE GOTTEN THE SAME RECEPTION.
SOMETHIN' WEIRD ABOUT THOSE FOLKS.
SOON AS WE HAVE LUNCH, WE SHOULD-- SCUZZ! YOUR BAG.
OH, SPIT-- MY FINKY FINGERS ROTTED A HOLE IN IT.
CAN'T LET GOOD VITTLES GO TO THE CHIPMUNKS--
JEFF--!
--NOT WHEN YA GOT FLEET-FOOTED YOUNG BUCKS AROUND WHO NEED SIX SQUARES A DAY!
NOTHIN' UP MY SLEEVELESS!
THEY'RE BACK FIRE READY, DAVE?
JUST ABOUT.
LISTEN, JEFF, I'M GLAD YOU HELPED WITH THE GROCERIES, BUT YOU REALLY HAVE TO BE MORE CAREFUL. SOMEONE COULD HAVE SEEN YOU.
RELAX, RANDY. I ALWAYS LOOK BOTH WAYS BEFORE I CROSS.
LATER...
MMM-MMM. THAT WAS TASTY. SO WHEN'S SUPPER?
AAH, GO STICK YOUR FACE IN A GARBAGE CAN, YA SPAZZ.
BEFORE WE LEAVE, I'D LIKE TO TAKE A WALK TO THE PAYPHONE, SEE IF I CAN GET HOLD OF MY CHILDREN.
DIDN'T YOU JUST CALL THEM?
MY... MOTHER-IN-LAW ANSWERED, I... SHE DIDN'T LET ME SPEAK TO THEM.


MIND IF I, UH, GO WITH YOU, STEPHIE? WOULDN'T WANT YOU TO GET LOST.
IF YOU REALLY WANT TO, DAVE.
NO ONE EVER ASKS FOR MY OPINION, BUT I DON'T THINK IT'S A SMART IDEA FOR YOU TO KEEP CALLIN' YER KIDS. WHAT IF THOSE BUZZARDS AT THE CLINIC HAVE THE LINE TAPPED? THEY COULD TRACK US DOWN... START SHOOTING AT US AGAIN!
YOU'RE RIGHT, SCUZZ. NO ONE ASKED FOR YOUR OPINION.
THOSE CREEPS HAVEN'T BUGGED US IN A MONTH, SCUZZY. RELAX.
LIFE ON THE RUN HAS BEEN PRETTY ROUGH ON ALL OF US, BUT STEPHANIE IS DEFINATELY THE HARDEST HIT. SHE MISSES HER KIDS LIKE CRAZY.
WONDER WHEN IT'LL EVER BE SAFE FOR US TO GO HOME AGAIN.
SHEBOYGAN, WISCONSIN...
brnnng
I'LL GET IT.

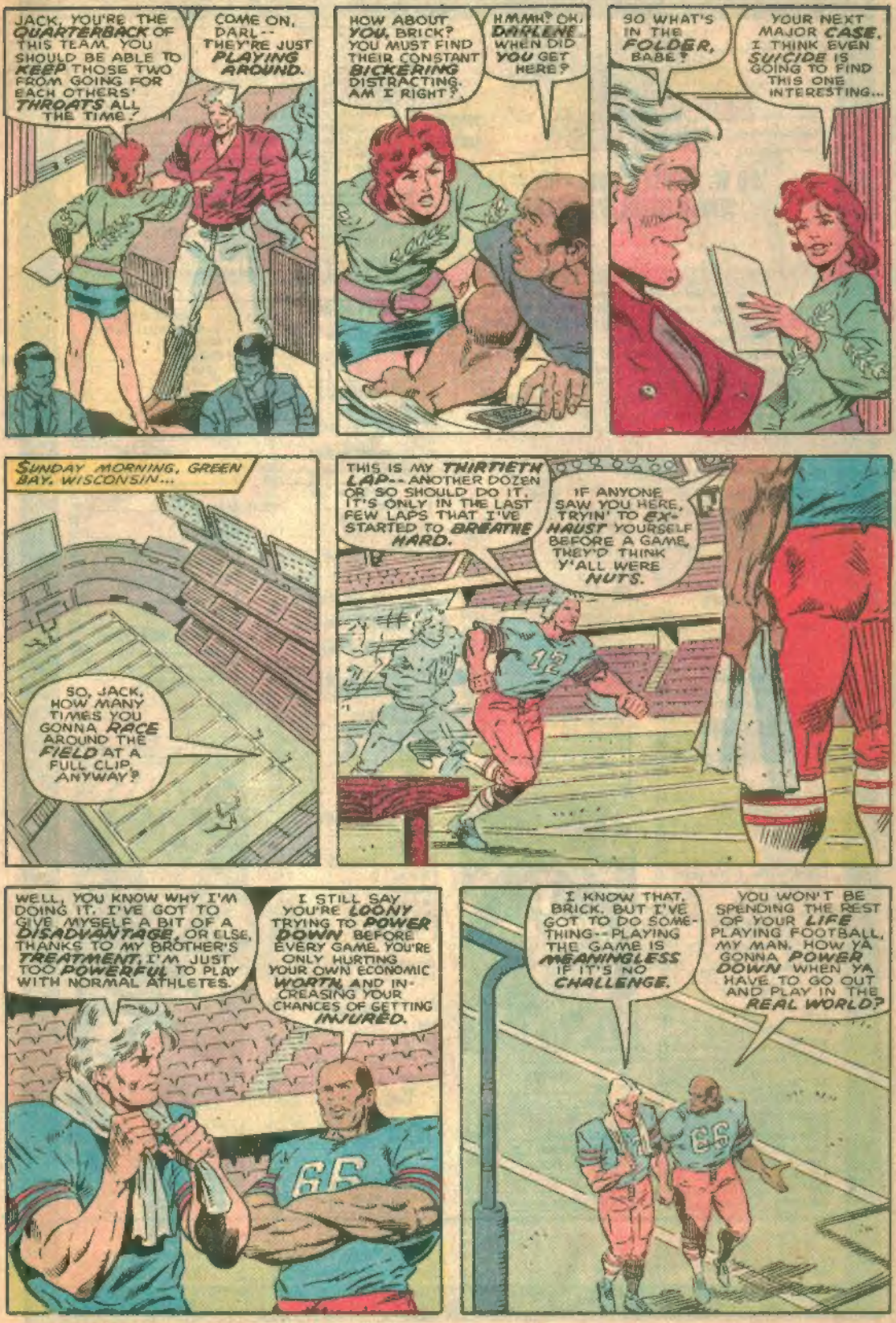

HELLO? MOMMY! NO GRAMMA'S UPSTAIRS. GIVIN' JILLY A BATH. I THINK.

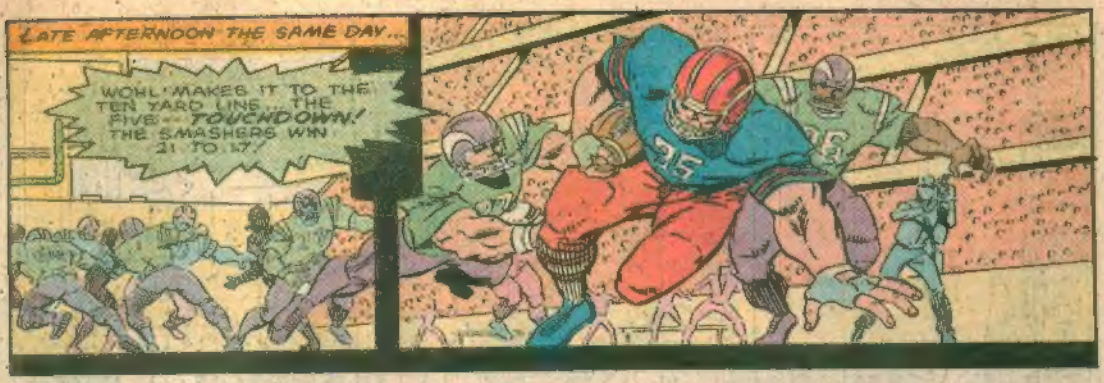

SO HOW ARE YOU, BEN? OH, IT'S SO GOOD TO HEAR YOUR VOICE! I TRIED CALLING YOU EARLIER, BUT YOUR GRANDMOTHER ANSWERED, AND--WELL, YOU KNOW SHE DOESN'T LIKE YOU TALKING TO ME. SO HOW ARE EMILY AND JILLY? OH, HOW I'D LOVE TO TALK TO THEM, TOO!


LISTEN, MOMMY. I GOTTA TELL YOU SOMETHING REALLY NEAT. I TALKED TO SOME PEOPLE WHO CAN HELP YOU SO YOU CAN COME HOME AGAIN. NO, I CALLED THEM. THEIR NAME IS KICKERS, INC. --
--THEY'RE FOOTBALL PLAYERS WHO HELP PEOPLE IN TROUBLE LIKE YOU. UH-HUH. I SAW THEM ON TEEVEE. NO, THEY'RE REAL!
I SPOKE TO THIS LADY WHO WORKS FOR THEM AND--


BENJAMIN! WHO ARE YOU TALKING TO, YOUNG MAN? GIVE ME THAT PHONE THIS INSTANT!
OH! GRAMMA! I--IT'S--I WAS ONLY...
THAT'S YOUR MOTHER, ISN'T IT? HOW MANY TIMES DO I HAVE TO TELL YOU THAT YOUR MOTHER IS VERY SICK--AND IF YOU TALK TO HER YOU'LL BECOME SICK, TOO!
BUT--!
HOW I HATE HER! MY POOR, POOR BABIES--!
YOUR MOTHER-IN-LAW.
OH, DAVID--WHAT AM I GOING TO DO? IT'S SO UNFAIR. JUST BECAUSE MY BODY SUDDENLY BECAME CHARGED WITH SOME KIND OF WEIRD ENERGY, MY HUSBAND AND HIS MOTHER WON'T LET ME SEE--WON'T EVEN LET ME TALK TO--MY OWN CHILDREN!
I--I JUST...CAN'T HANDLE THIS ANYMORE. THE THOUGHT OF THAT WOMAN WITH--!
EASY NOW, STEPHIE. I'LL HELP YOU THINK OF SOMETHING. I PROMISE.
ULP. WHEN SHE TOUCHES ME, I FEEL SO...SO EXCITED, I WISH--MAN, I GOT TO STOP TORTURING MYSELF. SHE'S MARRIED, FOR CRYIN'S SAKE!
SOON...
...AND DAVID SAYS HE'S READ ABOUT THESE PEOPLE MY BOY MENTIONED, KICKERS, INC. HE SAYS--
WE'RE IN LUCK. I FOUND THE ARTICLE ON THEM. HERE, TAKE A LOOK. AS FAR AS I'M CONCERNED, IF IT'S IN SPORTS ILLUSTRATED, IT'S GOT TO BE LEGIT.
YOU GUYS HAVE TO BE KIDDING WITH THIS FOOTBALL CRAP, RIGHT? I MEAN, THEY'VE GOT TO BE JUST A PACK OF JERKS LOOKIN' FOR PUBLICITY. BESIDES, WHAT COULD A BUNCH O' NORMALS DO THAT US PARANORMALS COULDN'T DO FOR OURSELVES?
MM-MMM! THIS DASHER CORBIN IS CUTE. I WOULDN'T MIND SEEING HIM IN THE FLESH.
I SAY IT'S WORTH A TRY. HOW ABOUT YOU, LENORE?
IT WOULDN'T HURT TO CALL THEIR TOLL-FREE NUMBER LISTED HERE, I SUPPOSE.

SO WHAT WE TALKIN' HERE? HIRIN' THESE JOCKS TO GO TO THE CLINIC TO MAKE SURE THAT THE MANAGEMENT AIN'T SORE AT US FOR RUNNIN' OUT ON 'EM ANYMORE, RIGHT?
WELL, THAT'S JAKE BY ME. I MEAN NOBODY CAN CURE US OF THIS WEIRD STUFF WE ALL DO, BUT AT LEAST IT'D BE COOL IF WE COULD ALL GO HOME AGAIN WITHOUT BEIN' AFRAID WE'LL GET NABBED.
I'D HAVE TO AGREE WITH JEFF, RANDY. HOW ABOUT YOU?
IN THE WEEKS SINCE WE LEFT THE CLINIC, ALL WE'VE DONE IS TO RUN AND AVOID OTHER PEOPLE AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE. MAYBE IT IS TIME WE TRIED TRUSTING SOMEONE OUTSIDE OUR GROUP AGAIN--
WONDER IF THE KICKERS' PARENT TEAM, THE NEW YORK SMASHERS ARE SCHEDULED TO PLAY IN WISCONSIN ANY TIME SOON?
LATER THAT DAY...
SO, BY MY CALCULATIONS, THIS POSTER DEAL SHOULD NET US A MINIMUM OF FIFTY GRAND AFTER TAXES--
KICKERS INC.
EXECUTIVE OFFICES
--AND BY PRINTING OUR TOLL-FREE NUMBER AT THE BOTTOM, WE'LL BE ABLE TO EXPAND OUR PENETRATION OF THE MARKET-PLACE AT NO EXPENSE WHATSOEVER.
COULDN'T I BE SPARED ALL THIS FINANCIAL MUMBO-JUMBO? ALL I WANT TO KNOW IS WHEN WE'RE GONNA GET ANOTHER INTERESTING CASE--
SOUNDS GOOD TO ME, BRICK.
--LIKE THE ONE WITH THAT ROBOT OR THOSE WITCHES.
SUICIDE, YOUR ATTITUDE REALLY BITES WIND. YOU KNOW THAT?
HERE'S YOUR CHANCE TO DO SOMETHING WORTHWHILE --TO HELP ALL THOSE PEOPLE OUT THERE WHO DON'T MAKE IN A YEAR WHAT YOU MAKE IN A WEEK--
--AND ALL YOU CARE ABOUT IS GETTING YOUR JOLLIES!
BULL-ONEY! YOU'RE AS BIG AN ACTION ADDICT AS I AM. DON'T GIVE ME ALL THAT BLEEDING HEART STUFF--
--OR I'M LIABLE TO STICK IT IN YOUR--
SUICIDE! DASHER! YALL YOU TWO ACT LIKE GROWN-UPS FOR ONCE?


JACK, YOU'RE THE QUARTERBACK OF THIS TEAM. YOU SHOULD BE ABLE TO KEEP THOSE TWO FROM GOING FOR EACH OTHERS' THROATS ALL THE TIME!
COME ON, DARL-- THEY'RE JUST PLAYING AROUND.
HOW ABOUT YOU, BRICK? YOU MUST FIND THEIR CONSTANT BICKERING DISTRACTING. AM I RIGHT?
HMMH? OH, DARLENE... WHEN DID YOU GET HERE?
SO WHAT'S IN THE FOLDER, BABE?
YOUR NEXT MAJOR CASE. I THINK EVEN SUICIDE IS GOING TO FIND THIS ONE INTERESTING...
SUNDAY MORNING, GREEN BAY, WISCONSIN...
SO, JACK, HOW MANY TIMES YOU GONNA RACE AROUND THE FIELD AT A FULL CLIP, ANYWAY?
THIS IS MY THIRTIETH LAP-- ANOTHER DOZEN OR SO SHOULD DO IT. IT'S ONLY IN THE LAST FEW LAPS THAT I'VE STARTED TO BREATHE HARD.
IF ANYONE SAW YOU HERE, TRYIN' TO EXHAUST YOURSELF BEFORE A GAME, THEY'D THINK Y'ALL WERE NUTS.
WELL, YOU KNOW WHY I'M DOING IT. I'VE GOT TO GIVE MYSELF A BIT OF A DISADVANTAGE, OR ELSE, THANKS TO MY BROTHER'S TREATMENT, I'M JUST TOO POWERFUL TO PLAY WITH NORMAL ATHLETES.
I STILL SAY YOU'RE LOONY TRYING TO POWER DOWN BEFORE EVERY GAME. YOU'RE ONLY HURTING YOUR OWN ECONOMIC WORTH, AND INCREASING YOUR CHANCES OF GETTING INJURED.
I KNOW THAT, BRICK. BUT I'VE GOT TO DO SOMETHING-- PLAYING THE GAME IS MEANINGLESS IF IT'S NO CHALLENGE.
YOU WON'T BE SPENDING THE REST OF YOUR LIFE PLAYING FOOTBALL, MY MAN. HOW YA GONNA POWER DOWN WHEN YA HAVE TO GO OUT AND PLAY IN THE REAL WORLD?


LATE AFTERNOON THE SAME DAY...
WOW! MAKES IT TO THE TEN YARD LINE... THE FIVE-- TOUCHDOWN! THE SMASHERS WIN 21 TO 17!

AND, IN THE SMASHERS' LOCKER ROOM... SHORTLY THEREAFTER...
WHADDYA THINK WE WERE DOIN' OUT THERE, MAGNICONTE? PLAYIN' TIC-TAC-TOE?/?
YOUR GAME STUNK. YOUR THROWS WERE LOUSY. YOUR MOVES WERE SLUGGISH!

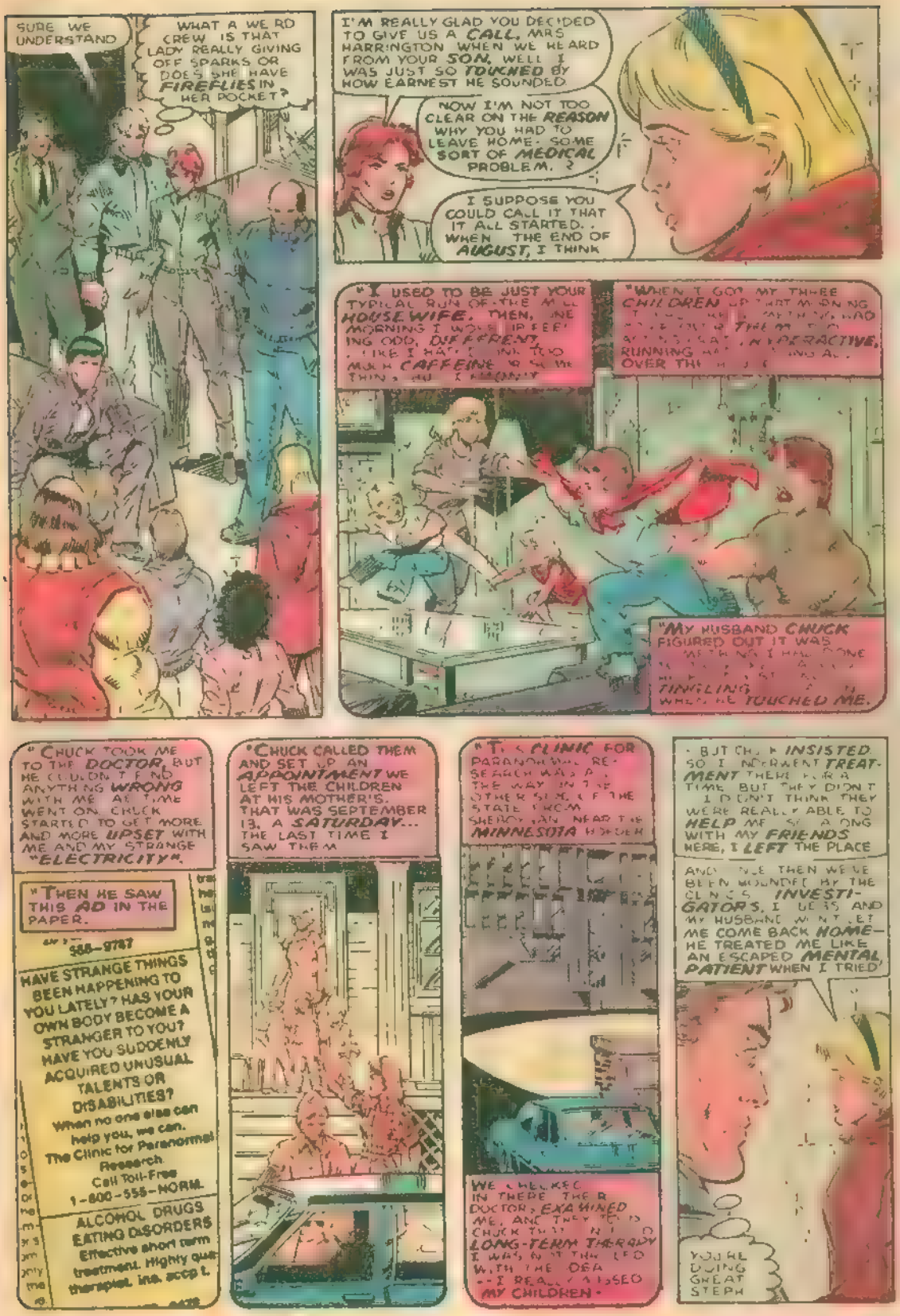
GEE, I'M REALLY SORRY, COACH.
YOU'RE GONNA HAVE TO KNOCK OFF THE LATE-NIGHT PARTYIN'-- AND ALL THAT GALLIVANTIN' DO-GOODER NONSENSE, TOO, IF IT'S GONNA AFFECT YOUR GAME, YA HEAR?
WE MAY STILL BE IN FIRST PLACE, BUT THAT'S NO REASON TO START SLACKIN' OFF. WE STILL HAVE TO FINISH THIS SEASON--

--AND THEN BY GUM WE HAVE TO GET THROUGH THE PLAYOFFS, AND WIN THE SUPER BOWL!
HEY! DASHER'S SHOES!
POOR JACK. HE'S BEEN READ THE RIOT ACT A LOT LATELY.

SO I WANNA SEE SOME IMPROVEMENT ON TUESDAY'S PRACTICE, YA HEAR?
YES, COACH.
HEH-HEH.
Gillette

KNOW WHAT, JACK? SOMETHING TELLS ME THAT COACH KIRBY ISN'T GOING TO REACT WELL WHEN HE FINDS OUT THE FOUR OF US AREN'T FLYING BACK TO NEW YORK WITH THE REST OF THE TEAM.
I HAVE THAT FEELING, TOO.

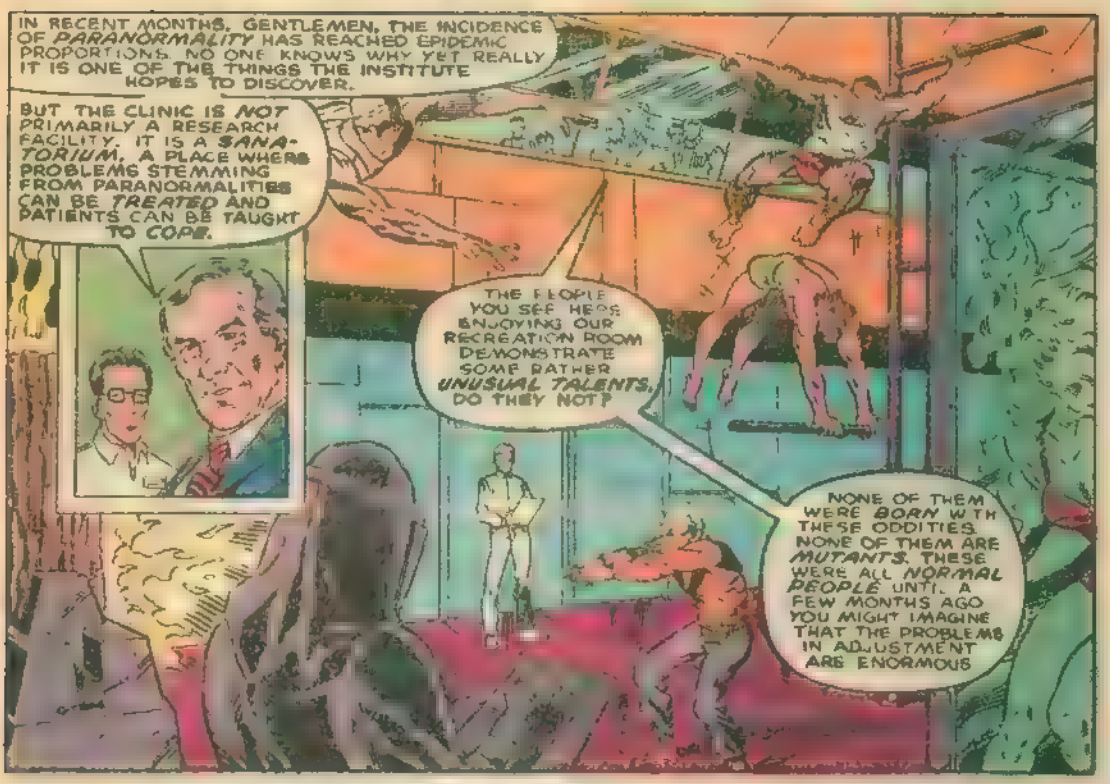
RELAX, SUICIDE! NO POINT IN WORRYING HOW THE COACH IS GONNA REACT TO THINGS! YOU CAN'T LET LITTLE STUFF LIKE THAT AFFECT--
--YOU--?
SPLOOSH
BLAST YOU, SUICIDE! THESE ARE TWO HUNDRED DOLLAR SHOES!
I GET MY HANDS ON YOU AND I'M GONNA MAKE YOU LICK THEM CLEAN!
HA HA HA! YOU'LL HAVE TO CATCH ME FIRST, DASHFUL!
A SHORT TIME LATER
HOWDY, DARLENE--!
STUPID SHOES SQUEAK NOW.
HIYA, HON GREAT LOOKING CAR
YOU GET SIX OR EIGHT CYLINDER, DOLL?
EIGHT.
ALL RIGHT!
SAY, DARLENE, MIND IF I RIDE UP FRONT WITH YOU? OLD DASHER IS HAVING ONE OF HIS SNIT FITS AGAIN.
YOU'RE GONNA GET YOURS, SUICIDE. MAKE BOOK ON IT.
HEY, TRUCE, YOU KNUCKLEHAIDS -- WE'RE ON AN ASSIGNMENT NOW!
FOUR HOURS OF DRIVING, AND ONE STOP FOR DIRECTIONS LATER
STARLITE MOTEL
THIS IS MY HUSBAND JACK MAGNICONTE, AND HIS ASSOCIATES, THOMAS "SUICIDE" SMYTHE, BEAUFORD "BRICK WALL" WOHL, AND DALLAS "DASHER" CORBIN
I'M STEPHANIE HARRINGTON. MY FRIENDS HERE WOULD PREFER TO REMAIN ANONYMOUS, IF YOU DON'T MIND.

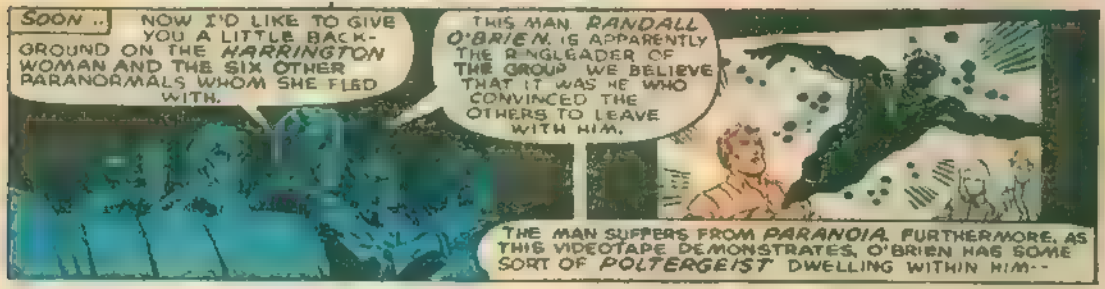

SURE WE UNDERSTAND
WHAT A WEIRD CREW IS THAT LADY REALLY GIVING OFF SPARKS OR DOES SHE HAVE FIREFLIES IN HER POCKET?
I'M REALLY GLAD YOU DECIDED TO GIVE US A CALL, MRS HARRINGTON WHEN WE HEARD FROM YOUR SON, WELL I WAS JUST SO TOUCHED BY HOW EARNEST HE SOUNDED
NOW I'M NOT TOO CLEAR ON THE REASON WHY YOU HAD TO LEAVE HOME- SOME SORT OF MEDICAL PROBLEM. ?
I SUPPOSE YOU COULD CALL IT THAT IT ALL STARTED.. WHEN THE END OF AUGUST, I THINK
"I USED TO BE JUST YOUR TYPICAL RUN-OF-THE-MILL HOUSEWIFE. THEN, ONE MORNING I WOKE UP FEELING ODD, DIFFERENT. I LIKE I HAD TOO MUCH CAFFEINE
"WHEN I GOT MY THREE CHILDREN
THEM
RUNNING
OVER TH
"MY HUSBAND CHUCK FIGURED OUT IT WAS
TINGLING
WHEN HE TOUCHED ME.
"CHUCK TOOK ME TO THE DOCTOR, BUT HE COULDN'T FIND ANYTHING WRONG WITH ME. AS TIME WENT ON, CHUCK STARTED TO GET MORE AND MORE UPSET WITH ME AND MY STRANGE "ELECTRICITY".
"THEN HE SAW THIS AD IN THE PAPER.
555-9787
HAVE STRANGE THINGS BEEN HAPPENING TO YOU LATELY? HAS YOUR OWN BODY BECOME A STRANGER TO YOU? HAVE YOU SUDDENLY ACQUIRED UNUSUAL TALENTS OR DISABILITIES?
When no one else can help you, we can.
The Clinic for Paranormal Research
Call Toll-Free
1-800-555-NORM.
ALCOHOL DRUGS EATING DISORDERS
Effective short term treatment. Highly qualified therapist. Ins. accpt.
"CHUCK CALLED THEM AND SET UP AN APPOINTMENT WE LEFT THE CHILDREN AT HIS MOTHER'S. THAT WAS SEPTEMBER 13, A SATURDAY... THE LAST TIME I SAW THEM
"THE CLINIC FOR PARANORMAL RESEARCH WAS A
THE WAY IN THE
OTHER SIDE OF THE
STATE FROM
SHERMAN NEAR THE
MINNESOTA
WE WALKED IN THERE THE DOCTORS EXAMINED ME, AND THEY TOLD CHUCK THAT I NEED LONG-TERM THERAPY I WAS IN NO THING TO DO WITH THE DEA -- I REALLY MISSED MY CHILDREN.
BUT CHUCK INSISTED SO I REFERRED TREATMENT
TIME BUT THEY DIDN'T I DON'T THINK THEY WERE REALLY ABLE TO HELP ME
WITH MY FRIENDS HERE, I LEFT THE PLACE
AND SINCE THEN WE'VE BEEN HOUNDED BY THE CLINIC'S INVESTIGATORS. I DEMAND MY HUSBAND WON'T LET ME COME BACK HOME- HE TREATED ME LIKE AN ESCAPED MENTAL PATIENT WHEN I TRIED'
YOU'RE DOING GREAT STEPH

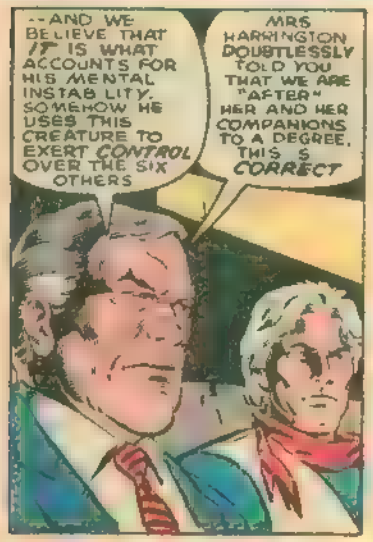
SO ALL WE REALLY WANT IS FOR SOMEONE TO TELL THEIR INVESTIGATORS TO STOP FOLLOWING US AROUND AND LEAVE US ALONE!
YOU, SUH, HAVE ONE INCREDIBLE PHYS QUE IF Y'ALL WANTED TO PLAY FOOTBALL, YOU COULD WRITE YOUR OWN TICKET.
SO WHAT YOU'RE SAYING IS YOU CAN SUPERCHARGE PEOPLE BY TOUCHING THEM. SHOW ME WHAT YOU MEAN, MA'AM.
I TAKE IT THE REST OF YOU ALSO HAVE SOMETHING UNUSUAL THAT YOU DO, AND THAT'S WHY YOU WERE AT THIS CLINIC, TOO?
THAT'S RIGHT STEPHANIE'S MAY WELL BE THE MOST ...EXOTIC.
NOW I CAN'T BELIEVE THAT THERE'S ANYTHING THAT STRANGE THAT A SWEET YOUNG THING LIKE YOU NEEDS TO BE TREATED FOR
IS THAT SO, MR. CORBIN?
PLEASE, M'LADY, CALL ME DASHER
OKAY. DASHER SIT DOWN I WANT TO SHOW YOU SOMETHING.
WHA--WHO-OOOAAAN! I SLID RIGHT OFF THE CHAIR!
DON'T WORRY, DASHER I'LL SEE TO IT THAT YOU STICK TO THE FLOOR THAT'S MY TALENT, MAKING THINGS SLIPPERY OR STICKY.
I REALLY DON'T KNOW WHAT TO MAKE OF ALL THIS. I'VE HEARD OF PEOPLE CLAIMING TO HAVE STRANGE POWERS BEFORE PSYCHICS AND SUCH, BUT HOW DOES THAT WOMAN GIVE OFF SPARKS ANYWAY?
MRS. HARRINGTON, KICKERS, INC REALLY WANTS TO HELP YOU AND YOUR FRIENDS, IF WE'RE ABLE TO.
DO YOU REALLY THINK YOU CAN?
I'M NOT GOING TO MAKE ANY PROMISES

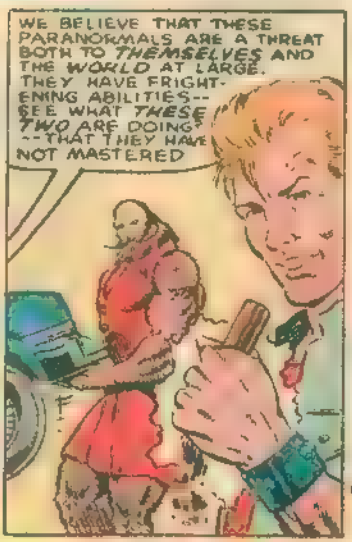
LATER, THREE DOORS DOWN
I THOUGHT I'D SEEN WEIRD IN MY TIME, YOU GUYS--
--BUT THOSE SEVEN JOKERS REALLY COP THE CAKE! WE GOT THAT HARRINGTON CHICK TO SHOW US WHAT HER FREAK POWER IS--WHO KNOWS WHAT THE REST OF THOSE ODDBALLS CAN DO!
DUNNO ABOUT YOU GUYS, BUT I WAS STARTIN' TO GET THE CREEPS
I'M NOT AS FAINT-HEARTED AS SOME OF US HERE. IN FACT, I'M STILL NOT CONVINCED THE STRANGE STUFF WE SAW WASN'T SOME KIND OF TRICK
SEEMS TO ME THAT WHAT THEY WANT US TO DO COULD EASILY BE DONE BY SOCIAL WORKERS. THEY DON'T NEED OUR HIGH-PROFILE HELP. THIS IS JUST A BIG WASTE OF TIME FOR US
WELL, AH'M NOT SO SURE WE KNOW WHAT THE SCORE IS YET. ONLY WAY WE'LL BE GONNA FIND OUT IS BY PAYIN' A VISIT ON THIS CLINIC THEY ALL TOLD US ABOUT. WHAT DO Y'ALL SAY, JACK?
I DON'T KNOW. THIS ISN'T LIKE ANYTHING WE'VE ENCOUNTERED BEFORE.
NOW LOOK, JACK. IF THIS CLINIC IS WHAT THEY SAY IT IS, IT ISN'T OUT OF THE QUESTION THAT THE STAFF THERE MIGHT BE INTERESTED IN YOU, TOO. YOUR ENHANCED STRENGTH CERTAINLY FALLS UNDER THE CATEGORY OF "PARANORMAL," YOU KNOW!
COME ON, DARLENE. SURE, I'M FOUR OR FIVE TIMES AS STRONG AS MOST PEOPLE-
--AND HAVE BEEN KNOWN TO STOP BULLETS!
WELL, YEAH - BUT OTHER THAN THAT, I'M PERFECTLY NORMAL! THOSE SEVEN FOLKS ARE WAY OUT OF THE ORDINARY
THAT'S JUST THE POINT. THEY ARE DIFFERENT. SO DIFFERENT THAT THEY HAVE NOWHERE TO TURN FOR HELP BUT US.
WHEN WE FORMED KICKERS, INC., WASN'T IT TO HELP PEOPLE WITH OFFBEAT PROBLEMS? WELL, BOYS, I DON'T THINK WE'RE GOING TO FIND PROBLEMS MORE OFFBEAT THAN THIS.
WE'VE GOT TO HELP THEM. YOU HEARD ME TELL MRS. HARRINGTON WE'D AT LEAST TRY. IF YOU BIG BAD BOY SCOUTS AREN'T UP TO IT, I'LL DO IT MYSELF!

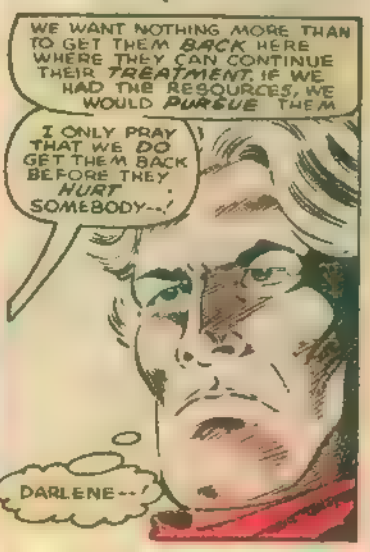
THE NEXT DAY AT THE CLINIC OF THE NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR ADVANCED MANPOWER RESEARCH IN NORTHWESTERN WISCONSIN.
YOU WANTED TO SEE US, MR VOIGT?
YES SIT DOWN I JUST RECEIVED A CALL FROM A JOHN MAGLICONTE OF ANCILLETTI CALLED KICKER'S INC, APPARENTLY SOME SORT OF PRIVATE INVESTIGATION FIRM
HE'S COMING HERE THIS AFTERNOON TO SPEAK WITH ME ABOUT OUR EX-PATIENT STEPHANIE HARRINGTON.
MISS SPECK, IS THERE ANY REASON WHY YOU WERE UNAWARE THAT OUR ESCAPEES CONTACTED THIS PARTY?
ER--WELL, SIR, LAST NIGHT I WAS HELPING MR. CHARNEY REINFORCE THE NEW PATIENTS WE ADMITTED YESTERDAY, AND--
--WELL, YOU KNOW I CAN ONLY BE IN ONE MIND AT A TIME, SIR.
NEED I REMIND YOU, MS SPECK, THAT THE SURVEILLANCE OF OUR ESCAPEES IS YOUR TOP PRIORITY
SIR, I'VE HEARD ABOUT THIS KICKERS GROUP WE REALLY HAVE NOTHING TO WORRY ABOUT THEY'RE NOT REALLY PROFESSIONAL INVESTIGATORS --THEY'RE JUST PRO FOOTBALL PLAYERS WHO'VE SET UP A NON-PROFIT REFERRAL SERVICE --PROBABLY AS A TAX DODGE
THEY HAD A BIT ON THEM ON "20/20" A WHILE BACK.
THANK YOU FOR YOUR INSIGHT, MR HACKBARTH
NOW LISTEN WE CAN TURN THIS MEETING TO OUR ADVANTAGE... USE THESE KICKERS TO STRIKE AT THE ESCAPEES, THOROUGHLY DEMORALIZE THEM. WE'LL NEED MR. CHARNEY'S AID.
SIR, I'M NOT SURE I FOLLOW. EVEN IF WE PERSUADED THEM TO TRY TO CAPTURE THE ESCAPEES FOR US, WHAT CHANCE DO A FEW ATHLETES HAVE TO SUCCEED WHERE OUR OWN AGENTS COULD NOT?
I DON'T EXPECT THESE KICKERS TO SUCCEED, MISS SPECK. I ONLY EXPECT THEM TO TEACH THE ESCAPEES THE FUTILITY OF LOOKING TO OUTSIDE HELP
NOW SEND MR CHARNEY IN
LATER
PLEASED TO MEET YOU, GENTLEMEN. I'M PHILIP NOLAN VOIGT, THE HEAD OF THE CLINIC. AND THIS IS MY ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT, MR. CHARNEY.
A PLEASURE, SIR
BEFORE WE GET TO THE MATTER YOU WANTED TO DISCUSS, HOW ABOUT IF I GIVE YOU FELLOWS A TOUR OF THE FACILITIES HERE, SO YOU KNOW JUST WHAT IT IS WE'RE TRYING TO DO FOR OUR PATIENTS


IN RECENT MONTHS, GENTLEMEN, THE INCIDENCE OF PARANORMALITY HAS REACHED EPIDEMIC PROPORTIONS. NO ONE KNOWS WHY YET. REALLY IT IS ONE OF THE THINGS THE INSTITUTE HOPES TO DISCOVER.
BUT THE CLINIC IS NOT PRIMARILY A RESEARCH FACILITY. IT IS A SANATORIUM, A PLACE WHERE PROBLEMS STEMMING FROM PARANORMALITIES CAN BE TREATED AND PATIENTS CAN BE TAUGHT TO COPE.
THE PEOPLE YOU SEE HERE ENJOYING OUR RECREATION ROOM DEMONSTRATE SOME RATHER UNUSUAL TALENTS, DO THEY NOT?
NONE OF THEM WERE BORN WITH THESE ODDITIES. NONE OF THEM ARE MUTANTS. THESE WERE ALL NORMAL PEOPLE UNTIL A FEW MONTHS AGO. YOU MIGHT IMAGINE THAT THE PROBLEMS IN ADJUSTMENT ARE ENORMOUS

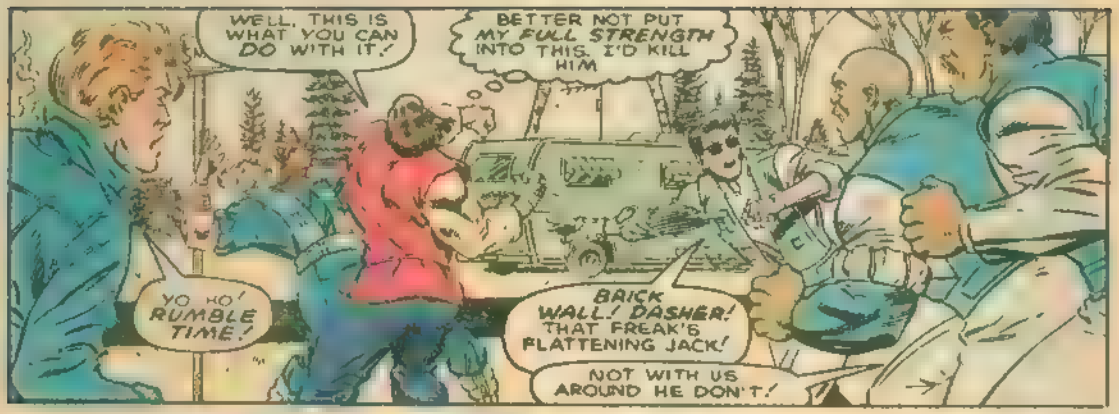

SOON ..
NOW I'D LIKE TO GIVE YOU A LITTLE BACKGROUND ON THE HARRINGTON WOMAN AND THE SIX OTHER PARANORMALS WHOM SHE FLED WITH.
THIS MAN, RANDALL O'BRIEN, IS APPARENTLY THE RINGLEADER OF THE GROUP. WE BELIEVE THAT IT WAS HE WHO CONVINCED THE OTHERS TO LEAVE WITH HIM.
THE MAN SUFFERS FROM PARANOIA. FURTHERMORE, AS THIS VIDEOTAPE DEMONSTRATES, O'BRIEN HAS SOME SORT OF POLTERGEIST DWELLING WITHIN HIM--


--AND WE BELIEVE THAT IT IS WHAT ACCOUNTS FOR HIS MENTAL INSTABILITY. SOMEHOW HE USES THIS CREATURE TO EXERT CONTROL OVER THE SIX OTHERS
MRS HARRINGTON DOUBTLESSLY TOLD YOU THAT WE ARE "AFTER" HER AND HER COMPANIONS TO A DEGREE. THIS IS CORRECT

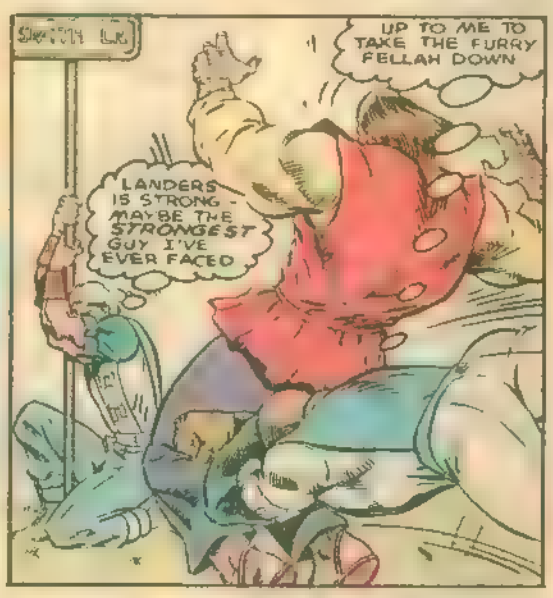

WE BELIEVE THAT THESE PARANORMALS ARE A THREAT BOTH TO THEMSELVES AND THE WORLD AT LARGE. THEY HAVE FRIGHTENING ABILITIES--SEE WHAT THESE TWO ARE DOING--THAT THEY HAVE NOT MASTERED

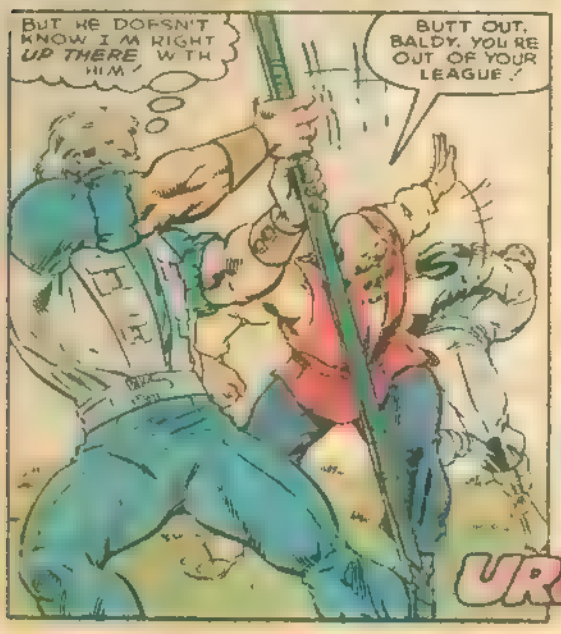

WE WANT NOTHING MORE THAN TO GET THEM BACK HERE WHERE THEY CAN CONTINUE THEIR TREATMENT. IF WE HAD THE RESOURCES, WE WOULD PURSUE THEM
I ONLY PRAY THAT WE DO GET THEM BACK BEFORE THEY HURT SOMEBODY--!
DARLENE--!

AND SOON...
THANK YOU FOR YOUR TIME, MR VOIGT WE MAY BE ABLE TO HELP YOU WITH YOUR RUN-AWAY PROBLEM WE'LL BE IN TOUCH.
JACK MUST BE WORRIED SICK THINKIN' HOW HE LEFT DOLL BACK THERE ALONE WITH THOSE FREAKS!
I WARNED HER NOT TO TRUST 'EM
EXCELLENT WORK, MR CHARNEY YOUR PARANORMAL MIND REINFORCED THE EFFECT OF MY WORDS UPON THE R BRAINS WITH GREAT SUBTLETY THERE GO FIVE HIGHLY MOTIVATED INDIVIDUALS.
WELL, SIR, IT'S EASIER WHEN A PERSON'S PREDISPOSED TOWARDS OUR POSITION TO BEGIN WITH
TWO AND A HALF HOURS OF AGGRESSIVE DRIVING LATER.
YO, RANDY THE SPIT-KICKERS ARE BACK
CAN'T SAY I MUCH CARE FOR THEIR DRIVING
WANNA BET THE B G GHOTS LAID A BIG EGG?
SKRMMMP
YOU' LANDERS! WHERE'S MY WIFE?
HEY, THEY MUST'VE BEEN TOLD OUR NAMES'
SHE'S TAKING A WALK WITH OUR WOMEN, MR. MAGNICONTE WHY? WHAT'S THE PROBLEM?
THE CLINIC TOLD US ALL ABOUT YOU PEOPLE -- THE TRUTH YOU WITHHELD FROM US'
YEAH.
THE TRUTH --? YOU MEAN YOU BOUGHT THEIR LOAD OF CRAPOLA ABOUT US BEING DANGEROUS NUTCASES AND THEM BEING THE --
MY WIFE, LANDERS TAKE ME TO SEE HER NOW OR I'LL -
YOU THREATENING ME, MISTER?


WELL, THIS IS WHAT YOU CAN DO WITH IT!
BETTER NOT PUT MY FULL STRENGTH INTO THIS. I'D KILL HIM
YO HO! RUMBLE TIME!
BRICK WALL! DASHER! THAT FREAK'S FLATTENING JACK!
NOT WITH US AROUND HE DON'T!

SORRY, BRO, BUT BIG DAVE IS DOIN' FINE WITHOUT YOU JOCKS CRAMPIN' HIS STYLE
SUICIDE AN' DASHER GOT TAGGED
-- BLOCKIN' FOR ME!


SMITH LK.
UP TO ME TO TAKE THE FURRY FELLAH DOWN
LANDERS IS STRONG - MAYBE THE STRONGEST GUY I'VE EVER FACED


BUT HE DOESN'T KNOW I'M RIGHT UP THERE WITH HIM!
BUTT OUT, BALDY. YOU'RE OUT OF YOUR LEAGUE!

URRNNK

YOU'VE JUST PROVEN YOURSELF THE MENACE WE THOUGHT YOU TO BE / I'M TAKING YOU IN, TOUGH GUY.
HE SNAPPED OFF THAT METAL POLE

I'VE NEVER SEEN DAVE THIS ANGRY BEFORE HE'LL KILL MAGNICONTE IF HE'S NOT CAREFUL!
DAVE! STOP!
THE ANTI-BODY-- MY AGITATION'S FREED IT!
HOLEE--!
THAT DEMON WE SAW ON FILM!
BUZZ OFF, SPOOK!
I DON'T NEED YOUR HELP TO FLATTEN THIS TURNCOAT!
THOK
!
HUH! DAVEY MUSTA CAUGHT THE GHOST JUST AS IT TURNED SOLID!
NEARBY...
AND YOU STILL HAVEN'T THE SLIGHTEST IDEA WHAT IT WAS THAT ALTERED YOUR BODIES IN THESE WAYS?
NOT A CLUE. THE SEVEN OF US DIDN'T EVEN BEGIN CHANGING AT THE SAME TIME... WHICH PROBABLY MEANS SOMETHING DIFFERENT IS RESPONSIBLE FOR--
WAIT-- DO YOU HEAR SOMETHING? SOUNDS LIKE SHOUTING--!
IT'S COMING FROM WHERE OUR TRAILER'S PARKED!
SOMEONE'S FIGHTING!

DO YOUR WORST, APE! YOU WON'T FIND ME A PUSHOVER LIKE THE REST OF YOUR VICTIMS!
KUNG
DAVID--?
JACK--!
IS THAT THE BEST YOU CAN DO? HA!
YOU KNOW WHAT REALLY KISSES ME OFF, GLAMOR-BOY? IT'S HOW YOU JERKS GOT STEPHIE'S HOPES UP!
DARLENE-- I SEE HER SHE'S UNHARMED!
OOLPP!
I TRUSTED YOU, MAN! I FIGURED A SUPERSTAR QUARTERBACK LIKE YOU HAD TO HAVE SOME INTEGRITY!
SPOK
WHAT KIND OF SCAM DO YOU HAVE GOING WITH YOUR KICKERS OUTFIT ANYWAY? YOU GUYS MERCENARIES-- SELLING YOUR SERVICES TO THE HIGHEST BIDDER?
HOW MUCH DID THE CLINIC PAY YOU TO DO THEIR DIRTY WORK? YOU SUPPOSED TO BRING US IN YOURSELVES-- OR JUST DETAIN US TILL THEY GET HERE?
MY GOD-- HE'S KILLING HIM! MAKE HIM STOP! PLEASE, MAKE HIM STOP!
WHAT IS DAVID DOING? THIS ISN'T LIKE HIM AT ALL!

BASH
DAVID--!
WHAT'S GOING ON HERE? WHY ARE YOU TRYING TO HURT HIM?
HUFF HUFF BETRAYED US... TO THE CLINIC.
JACK--!
WHAAAT?

YOU'RE SURE? BETRAYED US... HOW?
HE ATTACKED ME. TOLD THE CLINIC WHERE WE ARE... I THINK.

DARLENE. H-HOW IS HE?
BREATHING, BUT I- I'VE NEVER SEEN HIM SO BATTERED!
LET ME TOUCH HIM --I CAN SPEED UP HIS BODY'S HEALING--

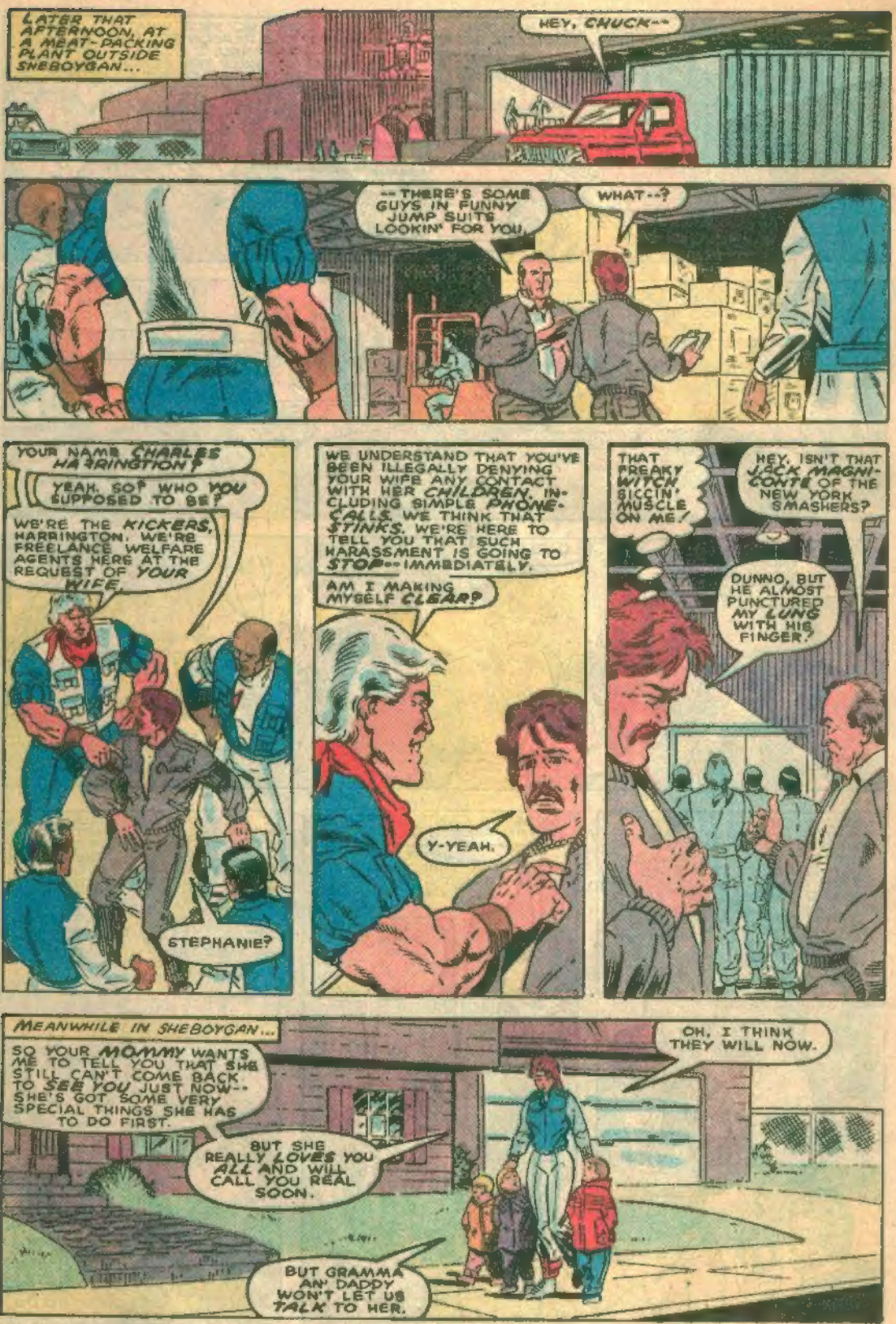
EASY NOW, MR. MAGNICONTE --JUST RELAX AND LET IT HAPPEN.

NNNH? WHA— FEELS... GOOD...

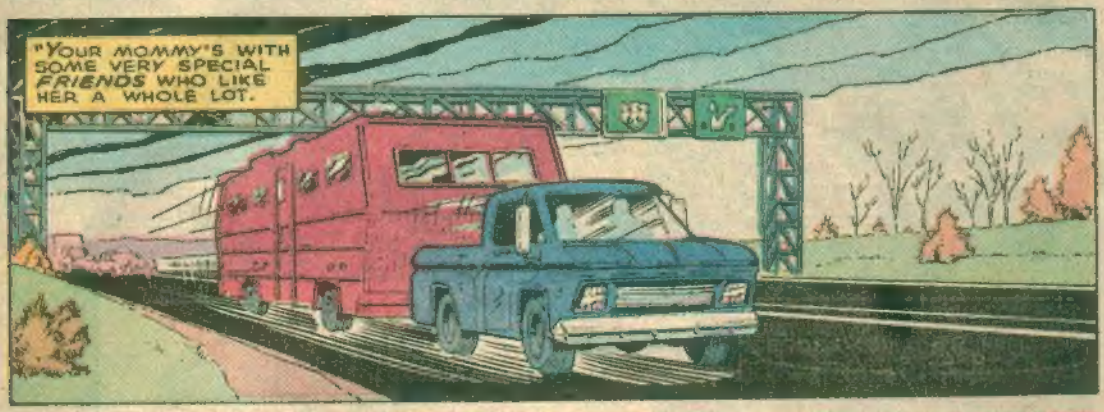
YOU REALLY DID IT! THANK YOU!
BUT WHY WERE THEY FIGHTING?
DAVID SAID SOMETHING ABOUT--

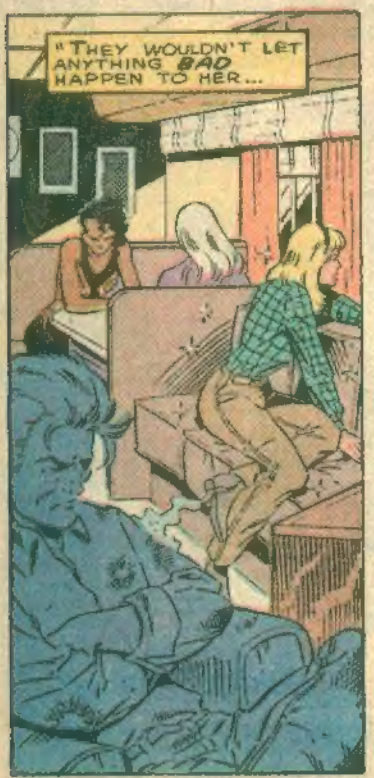
CAN THE CHITCHAT, LADY! WE GOTTA BLOW. THE CLINIC GOONS COULD BE HERE ANY SECOND--!

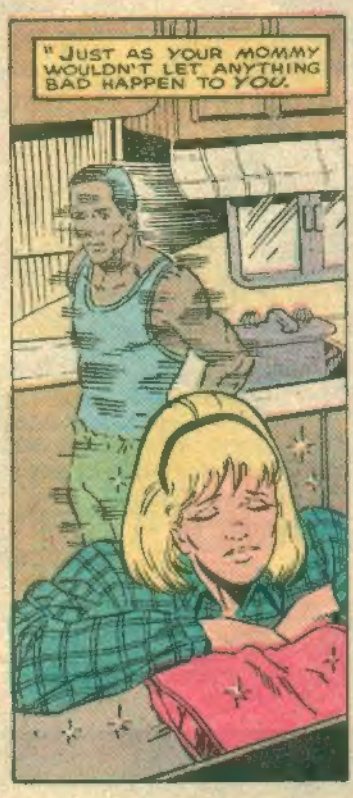
EVERYBODY INTO THE TRAILER! COME ON, STEPH!
NO, DON'T GO YET. WHATEVER'S THE REASON FOR WHAT JUST HAPPENED, I STILL WANT TO HELP YOU REACH YOUR CHILDREN!
I... I DON'T THINK YOU CAN HELP NOW. SORRY I INVOLVED YOU IN MY PROBLEMS!
DAVE, YOU IN ANY SHAPE TO DRIVE?
HOW'D YOU LIKE THOSE FREAKS, TROUNCING US LIKE WE WERE SCHOOL-KIDS?!?
DARLENE...?
LET'S HUSTLE-- WE GOTTA SHAG AFTER THEM--! THEY'RE TOO DANGEROUS TO BE RUNNIN' AROUND LOOSE!
AH GOT ME A FEELIN' WE WOULDN'T BE ABLE TO DO ANY BETTER'N WE ALREADY DID, SUICIDE.
GUESS WE CAN'T EXPECT TO WIN THEM ALL...
...AND I WAS SO WORRIED WHEN I DIDN'T SEE YOU THAT I... I DID PROVOKE THE GUY, AND...
I DON'T CARE WHAT THE CLINIC MAY HAVE TOLD YOU ABOUT THEM, JACK.
I TALKED WITH THEM. I GOT TO KNOW THEM. THEY'RE NOT MENACES. JUST UNFORTUNATE VICTIMS OF CIRCUMSTANCE WHO ARE TRYING TO GET BY AS BEST THEY CAN.
WELL, THERE'S NOTHING TO BE DONE FOR THEM NOW, EVEN IF WE WANTED TO. WE CAN'T SPEND OUR LIVES ON THIS ONE CASE.
NO, JACK... THERE IS SOMETHING WE CAN STILL DO. AND YOU'RE GOING TO DO IT, YOU HEAR?


LATER THAT AFTERNOON, AT A MEAT-PACKING PLANT OUTSIDE SHEBOYGAN...
HEY, CHUCK--
--THERE'S SOME GUYS IN FUNNY JUMP SUITS LOOKIN' FOR YOU.
WHAT--?
YOUR NAME, CHARLES HARRINGTON?
YEAH. SO? WHO YOU SUPPOSED TO BE?
WE'RE THE KICKERS, HARRINGTON. WE'RE FREELANCE WELFARE AGENTS HERE AT THE REQUEST OF YOUR WIFE.
STEPHANIE?
WE UNDERSTAND THAT YOU'VE BEEN ILLEGALLY DENYING YOUR WIFE ANY CONTACT WITH HER CHILDREN, INCLUDING SIMPLE PHONE-CALLS. WE THINK THAT STINKS. WE'RE HERE TO TELL YOU THAT SUCH HARASSMENT IS GOING TO STOP-- IMMEDIATELY.
AM I MAKING MYSELF CLEAR?
Y-YEAH.
THAT FREAKY WITCH SICCIN' MUSCLE ON ME!
HEY, ISN'T THAT JACK MAGNICONTE OF THE NEW YORK SMASHERS?
DUNNO, BUT HE ALMOST PUNCTURED MY LUNG WITH HIS FINGER!
MEANWHILE IN SHEBOYGAN...
SO YOUR MOMMY WANTS ME TO TELL YOU THAT SHE STILL CAN'T COME BACK TO SEE YOU JUST NOW-- SHE'S GOT SOME VERY SPECIAL THINGS SHE HAS TO DO FIRST.
BUT SHE REALLY LOVES YOU ALL AND WILL CALL YOU REAL SOON.
OH, I THINK THEY WILL NOW.
BUT GRAMMA AN' DADDY WON'T LET US TALK TO HER.

MOMMY ONCE TOLD ME THAT SHE COULDN'T COME HOME BECAUSE THERE WERE SOME BAD MEN CHASING HER. IS MOMMY REALLY GONNA BE ALL RIGHT?
YES, SWEETHEART. SHE'S GOING TO BE FINE.


"YOUR MOMMY'S WITH SOME VERY SPECIAL FRIENDS WHO LIKE HER A WHOLE LOT.


"THEY WOULDN'T LET ANYTHING BAD HAPPEN TO HER...


"JUST AS YOUR MOMMY WOULDN'T LET ANYTHING BAD HAPPEN TO YOU.

"YOU KNOW WHAT? I'LL BET YOUR MOMMY IS THINKING OF YOU THREE RIGHT NOW!"